(ii) To review the international experience in assisting distressed farmers including provision of financial counseling and planning services;

(iii) To evolve a Credit Guarantee Scheme under the DICGC Act for distressed farmers, keeping in view the earlier experience of Credit Guarantee Scheme;

(iv) To suggest measures for providing financial counseling and risk mitigants for distressed farmers; and

(v) Any other relevant matter.

The group has since submitted its report on November 14,2006.

GM crops

†1049. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study is being conducted by Government regarding the area on which genetically modified crops are being grown;

(b) the share of rice and soyabean in these crops;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to impose a ban on the genetically modified crops;

(d) if not, whether Government will formulate any policy keeping in view the ban imposed by the America and other European countries on such crops; and

(e) if so, the'details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There is no proposal to conduct a study of the area under cultivation of Bt. Cotton, which is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop approved for commercial cultivation in India by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) functioning under the Ministry of Environment & Forests. However, according to information obtained from Bt. Cotton growing States, the details of area under Bt. Cotton cultivation are given below:—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Area in acres)

States	Kharif2002	Kharif2003	Kharif2004	Kharif2005
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000	8,25,000
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798	3,36,597
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157	3,73,293
Maharashtra	30,699	54,000	3,99,000	12,20,000
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764	69,772
Tamil Nadu	925	19,000	29,640	44,500
Punjab	—	—	—	1,80,000
Haryana	—	—	—	30,000
Rajasthan	—	—	—	5,703
TOTAL:	72,682	2,30,000	12,13,359	30,84,865

(b) Genetically Modified Rice and Soyabean have not been approved for cultivation.

(c) to (e) Government are not contemplating either imposition of ban on GM crops or formulation of any policy keeping in view the ban allegedly imposed by the America and other European countries on such crops.

Inspection facilities for pesticides and other harmful contents in fruits and vegetables

†1050. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any arrangement in consultation with the State Governments in the recent years for inspection and study of pesticides and other harmful substances present in the fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of various harmful substances found by such inspection and study?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.